

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A computer system comprising:

a power supply;
at least two server modules;
a midplane comprising:

at least two connectors operable to receive the at least two server modules and to provide a unique address for each server module, each connector having a unique predetermined address independent of the server modules; and

an address module operable to obtain the unique addresses of the connectors from the midplane and to calculate a start-up time for a first server module based on the unique address for the first server module and a multiplication factor associated with a duration of an inrush load of at least one of the server modules; and

wherein the system is operable to couple the power supply to the first server module based on the start-up time.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 1 wherein the server modules comprise blade servers.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 1 wherein the server modules comprise brick servers.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein the midplane comprises a circuit board including the at least two [or more] connectors coupled to the midplane and two or more resistors coupled to the midplane.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 4 wherein the connectors are operable to provide an interface between the server modules and the midplane.

6. (Original) The system of Claim 4 wherein each connector is operable to interface with one server module.

7. (Original) The system of Claim 4 wherein the midplane provides a unique address to each server module through resistor strapping the one or more resistors.

8. (Original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the midplane is further operable to provide an interface between the server modules and the power supply.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the power supply is operable to provide power to each server module upon expiration of the start-up time for each server module.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1 further comprising a management controller associated with the midplane, the management controller operable to provide sequence redundancy by sequencing power to the server modules if the midplane experiences a failure.

11. (Original) The system of Claim 1 wherein each address module includes a timer, the address module further operable to set the timer with the start-up time and the timer operable to count down from the start-up time.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1 further comprising a switch associated with each server module and the at least one address module, each switch operable to accept a command from the address modules to switch between an on position and an off position.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12 where at the expiration of the start-up time the address module switches a selected switch to the on position allowing an associated server module to receive power from the power supply.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for autonomous power sequencing in a computer system, the method comprising:

receiving two or more server modules into corresponding connectors on a midplane, each connector having a predetermined address independent of the server modules;

[providing] assigning a unique address [for] to each server module based on the predetermined address of the connector receiving that server module [location of each server module on a midplane];

obtaining the unique address for each server module from the midplane;

calculating a start-up time for each server module based on the unique addresses of each server module and an inrush load requirement of each server module; and

automatically sequencing power to start up the server modules based on the start-up times for the server modules.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14 wherein the server modules comprise blade servers.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14 wherein the server modules comprise brick servers.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14 wherein calculating the start-up time comprises:

obtaining a multiplication factor for each server module; and
calculating the start-up time using the multiplication factor.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 14 further comprising:

setting a timer with the start-up time;
counting down on the timer until the start-up time expires; and

on the expiration of the start-up time, switching a switch to an on position that allows the server module to receive power from a power supply.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14 wherein receiving the server modules comprises inserting each server module into a connector coupled to the midplane.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 14 wherein providing a unique address for each server module comprises strapping one or more resistors to the midplane whereby each connector provides a unique address for the server module associated with the connector.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 14 wherein automatically sequencing power to the server modules comprises providing power to the server modules one server module at a time.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 14 wherein automatically sequencing power to the server modules comprises providing power to each server module upon the expiration of the start-up time for each server module.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:
two or more server modules operable to process data;
one or more midplanes associated with the server modules, the midplanes including a plurality of connectors, each connector having a unique predetermined address independent of the server modules, each connector operable to interface with one of the server [module] modules and provide a unique address for that [each] server module based on the unique address of the connector receiving that server module [which connectors the server modules interface with];

one or more address modules associated with the server modules, the address modules operable to obtain the unique address from the connectors for each server module and to calculate a start-up time for each server module based on the unique address for each server module and at least one start-up characteristic of each server module;

one or more power supplies associated with the one or more midplanes, the power supplies operable to provide power to start up the server modules in a sequence determined by the start-up times for the server modules; and

one or more chassis operable to house the server modules, the midplane, and the power supply.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 23 further comprising one or more management controllers associated with the midplanes, the management controllers operable to provide sequence redundancy when one or more of the midplanes experiences a failure.

25. (Original) The system of Claim 23 further comprising one or more cabinets housing one or more of the chassis.